

SITUATION REPORT NO. 24 INCIDENT NO. 97-003

DATE: February 6, 1997 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Gusty winds on February 4 disrupted snow removal efforts in Sioux, Barnes, Stutsman and LaMoure County fell the previous day, compounding problems with blocked roads.
4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: N.D. Division of Emergency Management staff members are assessing the economic affect of the winter storms on the state's businesses.

Twenty teams of federal and state inspectors are to be deployed February 6 to satellite field offices. Inspectors will write and prepare Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) at the following locations: Bismarck at the Disaster Field Office, 600 South Second Street; Minot at the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) District Office; Devils Lake at the Ramsey County Courthouse; and Valley

City at the N.D. DOT District Office. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sixty-eight Notice of Interest (NOI) applications to participate in the public assistance program have been received by joint State/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Field Office (DFO). Applicants include: 24 counties; two Indian Reservations; 41 cities and one water district.

On February 6, N.D. National Guard crews were continuing dozer and snow blower work in 14 counties. National Guard personnel expect to complete snow removal work in Pembina County and to then move the mission's dozer resources to Walsh County. As crews complete missions in south, southeastern and east central North Dakota, the focus of future missions will shift toward the north central and northeastern regions. Seven counties in this region have placed requests for dozer missions. Personnel based at the Emergency Operations Center anticipate that National Guard efforts will extend to the first or second week of February. The National Guard has recorded 3,272 personnel days from January 13, the first day of operations, through February 4. Presently, there are 86 Army Guard and eight Air National Guard members on duty. Equipment in use includes 30 dozers, 28 tractor-trailers, two rotary snow blowers, 32 support vehicles, one grader and seven rental vehicles.

Officials for the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) anticipate that contractors working to push back snow on state highways will complete their work February 7 in the Bismarck and Valley City Districts. Work by contractors assisting N.D. DOT crews in the Grand Forks and Fargo Districts may be completed by February 14.

Snow removal efforts by North Dakota's counties averaged slightly more than 94 percent access and nearly 73 percent push back of snow, according to February 5 statistics compiled by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management. In the northwest, 12 counties and the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation reported an average of nearly 99 percent access and nearly 87 percent push back of snow. In the southwest quadrant, 14 counties and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation achieved nearly 93 percent access and 85 percent push back of snow. The 14 northwest counties and the Spirit Lake and Turtle Mountain Indian Reservations reported an average of nearly 99 percent emergency access and 63 percent push back of snow. As snow removal efforts progress for the southeast zone, 12 counties report nearly 84 percent emergency access and 54 percent push back of snow.

The Joint Information Center (JIC) notified the North Dakota media members that they can access interviews related to the storm by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Radio Network. The JIC, staffed by state and federal employees, also distributed a news release reminding North Dakotans that snow drifts may hide high voltage equipment, which could present a dangerous situation to operators of heavy snow removal equipment. A second news release urged communities to enroll in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The city of Regan has issued a Disaster Declaration, and the city of McHenry has issued a Disaster Declaration. Since the storms began, 52 counties, 72 cities and three Indian Reservations have issued either Emergency or Disaster Declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER: The forecast for February 6 calls for a continuation of warmer temperatures, which are expected to range from the 20s as a high in the east to 30 degrees as a high in the west. Patchy fog has been reported in the northwest, central and eastern North Dakota.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports and photos of snow removal efforts are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director